

AIRGRAM

123 Bowles, Chester (173)

RM/R	REP	AF
1	5	
ARA	EUR	FC
3	5	4
NEA	CU	INR
4		5
E	P	IO
4	1	2
2	4/2	5/3
SR	5/1	S/S
1		27
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	RMS	AIR
		4
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
5	10	5
OSC	USA	NSA
12	8	3
		NSC
		2

A-284

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR RM USE ONLY

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO: CONAKRY, DAKAR

10 AM 9 19

FROM : Amembassy ACCRA

DATE:

SUBJECT: Ambassador Bowles Visit to Mkrumah

REF :

Ambassador Chester Bowles and I called on President Mkrumah at Flagstaff House the evening of November 1, 1962 after I had arranged the appointment through Erica Powell that morning. The President met us alone in his office at 5:30 p.m.

After an exchange of reminiscences (Bowles was here seven years ago), Ambassador Bowles made several compelling points. He related a long conversation with Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin he had the day before he left Washington on his African trip (about October 14) in which he told Dobrynin the U.S. had some evidence that the Soviets were placing offensive weapons in Cuba. Bowles said Dobrynin was very upset to hear this and Bowles explained to Mkrumah that he thought at the time that Dobrynin honestly lacked knowledge of the Russian activities, since Ambassadors occasionally are not fully informed for tactical reasons. All of this, of course, developed the theme of Soviet stealth.

During this part of the talk Mkrumah went over to his desk and got the Cuban photographs I had given him several days before to show Bowles, since the latter remarked he had not seen them.

Bowles told Mkrumah that Russia was having serious difficulties both internally and externally, inferring that Russia backed off from Cuba because of problems rather than principle. He mentioned Russia's agricultural shortages, her difficulties with China and Albania and the tentative relationship with Yugoslavia, and her defensive obsession and consequently felt need for huge arms investments.

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

☒ In ☐ Out

FORM 4-62 DS-323

Drafted by:

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances:

AMB; HPH; Honey, Jr. / reg 11/2/62

Roberts

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/ME

REVIEWED BY: *11/2/62*
 () RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
 () EXTEND () DECLASSIFY IN PART
 () DENY () Non-responsive info.
 FOI, EO or PA exemptions *11/2/62*

CLASSIFIED BY: *11/2/62* IS authority to: *11/2/62*

DOWNGRADE TO: *11/2/62* () CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

W. Mahoney Jr.
William P. Mahoney, Jr.
American Ambassador

CONFIDENTIAL